

# TRANSPORTATION SAFETY INITIATIVES UNVEILED

*New SAFE Patrol Routes & High Visibility Apparel for Construction Workers*



Patrick Peters (right) and Ron Riggs (left), SAFE patrol drivers in District 4

Ever been stranded on the side of the road—out of gas, car overheated or some other problem—and you keep looking in the rear view mirror hoping and praying that someone will come to your aid. Even if a vehicle does pull over—who are they? Should you trust them?

Now FREE and trustworthy help is available to motorists traveling on interstates across the Commonwealth. In October 2004, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet launched the Safety Assistance for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) patrol program that provides courtesy van service to assist stranded motorists and keep the highways open. For more than a year, the SAFE patrol vans have been operating on I-64 in central Kentucky and on I-75 in south-eastern Kentucky. Today, the Transportation Cabinet announced that there are now additional SAFE patrol services available at more locations throughout the state.

All routes include:

- I-65 from the Tennessee state line to Exit 58 at Horse Cave (Mon. – Fri. 5:00 am – 9:00 pm local time)
- I-65 from Exit 76 at Upton to Exit 105 at Lebanon Junction (Mon. – Fri. 5:00 am – 9:00 pm local time)
- I-64 from Exit 19 at the I-265 interchange to Exit 69 at US 62 (Mon. – Fri. 5:00 am – 9:00 pm local time)
- I-75 from the Tennessee State Line to Exit 62 at Renfro Valley (Mon. – Fri. 6:00 am – 6:30 pm local time)

KY SAFE Patrol units, operated by transportation cabinet employees, are cargo vans equipped

with jumper cables, air compressor, fuel, general maintenance tools, cell phone, two-way radio and first aid equipment. Stranded motorists recognize the KY SAFE Patrol vans by the logo and name marked on the van and yellow lights on top. Not only do the patrols assist troubled motorists, they also remove debris from the interstate and provide traffic control during emergencies.

“Governor Fletcher is committed to improving our state’s transportation network and exploring every possible avenue to protect the people on our highways,” said Transportation Secretary Bill Nighbert. “This project ties together safety, tourism and friendly service. Providing this assistance to our visitors is important for Kentucky’s tourism industry.” Nighbert added, “The van drivers remove dangerous items from the roadways and are trained to look for suspicious items on the roads, making them safer for everyone.”

That operator training paid off right away for an I-75 van

## **KYTC SAFE Patrol Assists Motorist in Time to See First Grandchild’s Birth**

*The SAFE patrol received nothing but praises from a motorist who was in route to Hardin Memorial Hospital to see the birth of his first grandchild. Patrick Peters, SAFE patrol driver, assisted the gentleman who had a flat tire on Interstate 65 last week that thought he wouldn’t make it in time for the birth of his first grandchild.*

*Patrick spotted the stranded motorist and was able to temporarily fix the tire and followed him to the nearest service station for assistance.*

*The gentlemen made it to the hospital on time and offered to pay Patrick for his services. The next day he called to let us know how much he appreciated the new services offered by the Transportation Cabinet.*

driver who stopped to check on a jeep parked on the side of the road. The driver of the jeep ditched a meth lab beside the road and drove off. Upon inspection, the patrol operator found that the meth lab was still smoking and informed law enforcement officials of the license number and car description.

Deputy State Highway Engineer Chuck Knowles, who oversees the Office of System Preservation and Operations, is really proud of the service. Knowles explained, "We are providing a higher level of service for the motoring public and better managing our roads." He believes that being able to serve people and keep roads open are both important and with this project both goals are being accomplished.

Statistics are monitored monthly, since October 5, 2004 the KY SAFE Patrol has made more than 8,500 service stops.

In addition to keeping our highways safe, the Transportation Cabinet is keeping its employees safe while they are working on our roadways. Today, the cabinet unveiled the newest thing in safety apparel — retro-reflective safety gear. One of the greatest hazards to highway construction workers is that they blend in to their surroundings and are not visible to motorists. These high visibility shirts, vests, jackets, and head wear provide 360-

degree visibility of workers and are in greater contrasting lime-yellow colors to differentiate workers from other signage and barriers in work zones.

Nighbert said, "The Transportation Cabinet is committed to continual improvement in employee safety programs and holds the health and well-being of its employees as an organizational value."



*Workers wear new high-visibility vests.*

## **\$26.1 MILLION BYPASS IN SHELBYVILLE NOW AT THE STARTING LINE**

Even though the rain was coming down outside on a spring day in May, Governor Ernie Fletcher, Transportation Cabinet officials and Shelby County community leaders were still excited to conduct an indoor groundbreaking ceremony for a northern bypass around the city of Shelbyville. A group of approximately 100 people gathered at the Stratton Community Center in downtown Shelbyville for the official start of this long-awaited project.

This \$26.1 million project extends north from the intersection of US 60W and KY 55, crosses KY 53 near Shelby County West Middle School and reconnects with KY 55 just south of Bellvue Road. The entire length of the new route is 4.5 miles.



*L to R: Barry Sanders, District 5 Chief District Engineer; Marc Williams, Commissioner of Highways; State Representative Brad Montell, R-58; State Senator Gary Tapp, R-20; Tom Hardesty, Mayor of Shelbyville; Governor Ernie Fletcher; Rob Rothenburger, Shelby County Judge-Executive; Jayme Brewster, Whitney M. Young Jobs Corp Center; Germaine Taylor, Whitney M. Young Jobs Corp Center; Bill Nighbert, Secretary of the Transportation Cabinet*